

SC Conservation Bank Grants Review Committee

Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2020 10:00 AM

Opening

A meeting of the Grants Review Committee was called to order by Mr. Tommy Lavender at 10:00 am on May 7, 2020. The meeting took place via teleconference. Mr. Lavender stated that proper public notice had been issued for the meeting. There were no public comments.

Present

Committee members present included Andrea Clark, Tommy Lavender, Mike McShane, Curtis Spencer, and Keith Williamson. Bank staff present included Raleigh West, Amber Larck, and Margaret Pennebaker.

Minutes

Mr. Lavender stated the committee was sent a draft copy of the February 12, 2020 minutes prior to the meeting for their review and that a copy was within the Board Member handouts. He then asked for any additions, deletions, or corrections. Mr. McShane moved that the minutes be amended to add the following line at the end of the Purpose section, “and the Committee will make recommendations to the Board at the next scheduled Board meeting”. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. The minutes will be recorded as amended.

Purpose

The purpose of the meeting was the discussion of two projects which will be presented to the full Bank Board at the quarterly Board meeting scheduled for May 20, 2020. Mr. Lavender asked Mr. West to describe the projects to the committee:

Chapman Bridge Oconee Bell Preserve

Naturaland Trust submitted an application for \$630,000 to acquire 220 acres in fee simple in Oconee County. Mac Stone of Naturaland Trust spoke in favor of the project.

Sandy Run

Upstate Forever submitted a change in funding request to a project approved at the 02/19/2020 Board meeting. Sandy Run Forest was approved (but not yet closed) as a conservation easement on 237.3 acres in Union County for \$130,000. The total project included an application for a NAWCA grant which has since not advanced in the NAWCA application process. The landowners have offered to increase their donation, and Upstate Forever is requesting that the Bank increase its grant amount as well. Scott Park of Upstate Forever spoke in favor of the project

Following discussion of the projects, Mr. Lane made a motion to recommend that the Board approve the Chapman Bridge Oconee Bell Preserve project at \$550,000 and to increase the Sandy Run Forest grant amount by \$15,000 for a total of \$145,000. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Spencer, and seconded by Ms. Clark. The meeting adjourned at 10:55am